



**Let's Celebrate Christmas, Hanukah and the Holiday of Holidays in
ISRAEL
22 - 27 December 2019**

Servas Israel invite you to celebrate Christmas, Hanukah and the Holiday of Holidays with us in Israel.

Take the unique opportunity to see for yourself, first-hand and up-close the diversities in our small country – Israel:

- Haifa, Wadi Nisnas, during the Holiday of Holidays festival.
- Nazareth - the Christian & Muslim sites, Christmas Eve festivities.
- The Sea of Galilee and its Christian sites.
- Jerusalem, the city of the three monotheistic religions.

Servas Israel organizers booked 4 nights at guesthouses in Nazareth and Jerusalem. Links to the sites and guest houses are for information only.

Servas Israel members will be happy to host you before and after the event.

Come enjoy the Holidays with us in Israel.

Write to Israel@servas.org for details.

See program and more information, including prices.

Registration form is also attached.

Date / Time	Program	Place / remarks
Sunday 22 Dec		Stay at hosts' houses – arranged by Servas Israel organizers. Ask hosts if you can come one or more days before.
Free morning	Arrive at hosts to experience the holiday - check public transportation from Ben Gurion airport - see Information below.	Free morning.
15:00 – 18:00	Meeting at Beit Ha'Gefen – The Arab-Jewish Cultural Center Hagefen St. 2 Haifa . Guided walking tour to experience Holiday of Holidays in Wadi Nisnas, Haifa.	Local guide from Beit Ha'Gefen .
18:00 – 19:00	Registration and payment . Register for the event, and for optional activities: Christmas Eve Mass at Basilica of Annunciation in Nazareth, Jerusalem night spectacular (including payment). Sign up for guests' presentations & volunteering. Program presentation & practicalities.	Welcome meeting starts at 18:00 - at Beit Ha'Gefen, Hagefen St 2, Haifa . Arrive with your hosts.
19:00 – 21:00	Welcome party – breaking the ice, songs, dancing. Hanukkah 1 st candle lighting. Bring national costumes, musical instruments, Back to hosts' houses at the end.	Guests, organizers and hosts.
Monday 23 Dec		Stay overnight in guest houses in Nazareth – booked by Servas Israel and paid by yourself at check in.
Morning	Travel on your own to Nazareth, by public transportation. (Hosts will instruct you)	
15:00-16:00	Check in at Nazareth guest houses in the old city (near each other). Al Mutran hostel Al Hakim Guest House	Al Mutran hostel, Nazareth: http://www.al-mutran.com , 04-6457947, info@al-mutran.com Al Hakim Guest House, Nazareth: http://www.alhakim.co.il , 04-6545990, alhakimguesthouse@gmail.com
16:00 – 19:00	Meeting in Al Hakim hall - get-to-know-each-other . Then, walk in groups to the old town, to see Christmas festivities and have dinner en-route (purchased individually)	Enjoy Christmas festivities in the old town - together with Servas organizers.
19:00 – 21:30	Evening meeting at Al Hakim hall. Guests' presentations .	Meeting at Al Hakim hall . 5-6 presentations (as time allows)
24 Dec Tuesday		Stay overnight in guest houses in Nazareth – booked by Servas Israel and paid by yourself at check in.
7:30 – 9:00	Breakfast at Nazareth guest houses	
9:00 – 14:00	Guided walking tour in Old Nazareth: Mary's well, Greek-Orthodox Church, along the Pilgrim's Path, all the way to Basilica of Annunciation, the lit Christmas tree and Old Market. Peace	Our guides – Iris Salomon , Yafa Kfir , Servas members and local guide at Peace mosque .

	Mosque. Lunch en-route in the Old market (purchased individually)	
14:00 – 16:00	Free time. Back to guest houses.	
16:00 – 18:00	Afternoon meeting at Al Hakim hall. Light refreshments. Guests’ presentations.	Meeting at Al Hakim hall. 5-6 presentations (as time allows)
18:00 – 19:00	Walk all the way to the Basilica - see the festivities on the way.	Walk in groups with Servas Israel organizers.
19:00 – 22:00	Mass at the Basilica of Annunciation for guests who registered on 22 Dec at welcome meeting.	Servas Israel organizers will provide the tickets to the Mass.
22:00 - 24:00	Christmas celebration at Al Hakim hall, including special refreshments, music and games.	Each person should bring a small Christmas present for the celebration after the Mass.
Wednesday 25 Dec		Stay overnight in guest house in Jerusalem - booked by Servas Israel and paid by yourself at check in.
7:00 – 8:00	Breakfast and check out at guest houses in Nazareth	
8:00 – 12:00	Guided bus tour of Holy sites around the Sea of Galilee – Tabgha, Capernaum, The Mount of Beatitudes (if time allows).	Our guide – Iris Salomon Har-Even, Servas Host
12:00 – 14:00	Continue by bus to Migdal. Light lunch (purchased individually). Shopping at Dabach supermarket for self-cooking in Jerusalem (only guests who don’t go to the Migdal David Night Spectacular in Jerusalem).	Our guide – Iris Salomon Har-Even, Servas host.
14:00 – 15:30	Continue by bus and visit Yardenit. Bring swimsuit.	Yardenit Baptism site on the Jordan River: https://www.yardenit.com/about-us
15:30 – 18:00	Continue by bus to Jerusalem. Check in at Beit Ben-Yehuda hostel in Jerusalem.	Beit Ben-Yehuda hostel , Jerusalem: http://www.beit-ben-yehuda.org , 28 Ein Gedi Str. 02-6730124, info@beit-ben-yehuda.org
18:00 – 22:00 Option 1	Dinner – cooking and eating together at Beit Ben-Yehuda hall. Hanukkah candle lighting. Guests’ presentations.	Meeting at Beit Ben-Yehuda hall 5-6 presentations (as time allows)
18:00 – 22:00 Option 2	Migdal David Night Spectacular. 2 performances: 19:00 – 20:00 or 20:00 – 21:00. (for guests who registered and paid on 22 Dec at welcome party) Light dinner near Migdal David (purchased individually before the performance)	Prior registration and payment on 22 Dec at welcome meeting - 55 NIS per person, children 45 NIS
Thursday 26 Dec		Stay overnight in guest house in Jerusalem - booked by Servas Israel and paid by yourself at check in.
7:00 – 8:00	Morning activity– walk, yoga, gymnastics at Armon Hanatziv promenade (750-850 meters walk each way)	If organized by guests

7:30 – 9:00	Breakfast at the guest house	
9:30 - 13:30	<p>Arrive at Jaffa Gate by public transportation at 9:30, the latest.</p> <p>Guided walking tour in the Old city: the sites on top the thrice-holy Mt Zion, the Western (Wailing) Wall, a lookout over Temple Mount and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. In between we shall admire the city's walls and gates, its' quaint, labyrinthine stone alleys and colourful bazaars.</p>	<p>Local authorized guide: Eldad Brin - eldadbrin@gmail.com 054-4991800, http://allaboutjerusalem.com/tour_guide/eldad-brin</p> <p>Please have your comfortable walking shoes and warm clothes! When we are done you shall have sufficient time for lunch and souvenir-browsing.</p>
13:30 – 17:00	<p>Free afternoon. Lunch (purchased individually). Machane Yehuda market OR Israel museum OR the Dead Sea Scrolls at the Shrine of the book OR Yad Vashem holocaust museum.</p>	Tour by yourselves together or in groups with Servas organizers / Jerusalem members.
17:00 – 18:00	Back to Jerusalem guest houses by public transport.	
18:00 – 22:00	<p>Beads necklaces preparation (with the beads you should each brings from home - typical of your country) and farewell party at Beit Ben-Yehuda. Hanukkah candle lighting. Light dinner prepared by Servas organizers. Guests' performances.</p>	Meeting at Beit Ben-Yehuda hall - together with Servas Israel members
Friday 27 Dec		
7:30 – 9:00	Breakfast and check out of guest houses	
	Say Good Bye to each other and leave for home or continue to tour Israel by yourself, staying with hosts in other areas ...	

Important information for preparing your trip to Israel:

1. Participants are responsible for:
 - a. Booking flights to and from Ben Gurion airport in Israel. Be ready to pay cancellation fee if you don't obtain tourist visa for Israel (in case it is required for your country - <http://mfa.gov.il/MFA/ConsularServices/Documents/VisaRequirements-Tourists.pdf>), or wait until you are sure of obtaining visa, and only then apply for participation.
 - b. Arranging and paying for your own transportation from/to airport and/or to hosts/meeting points (you may need ILS cash for taxi or Rav Kav for public transport (to be purchased at the train/bus station at airport).
 - c. Please notice that public transportation from/to Ben Gurion airport during the weekend is different than during the week (use Neshet and Amal taxis during the weekend): <http://www.iaa.gov.il/en-US/airports/bengurion/Transportation/Pages/default.aspx>
 - d. Purchasing your own health and travel insurances at home, before arrival and tourist visa, if necessary - see: <https://mfa.gov.il/MFA/ConsularServices/Pages/Visas.aspx>.

- e. Paying individually for your stays at guesthouses, for your own meals, drinks, etc. during the tours, at kiosks, cafes, restaurants, market, etc.
 - f. Please send your valid Letters of Introduction (LOI), to potential hosts when you contact them.
2. On the opening night of the event, Servas Israel will collect **ILS 750 (Israeli shekels)** from each participant to cover **program expenses**: entrance fees to sites, guides, lecturers, bus hire, printed/art materials and refreshments (unless specified as "self-paid" in the program), and some unexpected expenses.
 3. Estimated self-paid expenses:
 - a. **Accommodation** in guesthouses: Four nights at approximately **ILS 250 per night per person**, depending whether the stay is in a double, triple, or dormitory room (as available) - paid directly at check-in at the guest houses - in ILS cash or credit card.
 - b. For food and public transportation: Approximately **ILS 100 per day per person**.
 - c. In conclusion, to be on the safe side: (based on the current exchange rates)

Pocket money - 5 days multiplied by 25 euros = 125 euros

Program expenses (to be collected by Servas Israel - see above) - 190 euros

Accommodation 250 euros (in a double room)

Total - up to 550 euros, for 5 days
 - d. For paying without VAT at guesthouses, you will be asked to show your passport and the blue card received at the airport.
 4. Please send your registration form (attached separately) in Word format to: israel@servas.org. (no need to sign if not possible to add digital signature on Word)
 5. **Registration will end May 15, 2019, or earlier if the list of 27 participants is full.**
 6. **Registration will be confirmed to each participant after receiving evidence of your flights' booking evidence and registration form to israel@servas.org.**
 7. Servas Israel organizers will arrange hosts for you for one-night 22 December 2019, near Haifa. You will be able to choose hosts for additional days before and after the event using Servas Online - Find members.
 8. Certificates of attendance will be provided upon request.

We look forward to seeing you in Israel

Servas Israel Organizing Team

Write to: israel@servas.org

Read news on [Servas Israel](#) website

and LIKE [Servas Israel](#) Facebook page